Jews was dominated by religion, which condemned most severely illicit intercourse, illegitimate births were practically unknown. In Prussia the percentage of illegitimate children is lower among the Roman Catholics than among the Protestants, owing to the great influence which the Roman Catholic priests have on the private lives of their parishioners. In many cases, from fear of the Church, the Roman Catholic will marry the woman whom he has rendered pregnant.

The degree of condemnation of illegitimate children varies with the social class of the mother, and is much stronger in the middle than in the lower classes. As in the countries where religion has lost its hold on the Jews, they mostly belong to the middle classes, the moral code of their class replaces the barriers elsewhere maintained by religion.